given Vol 5

Kizu Natsuki



CHAPTER 22

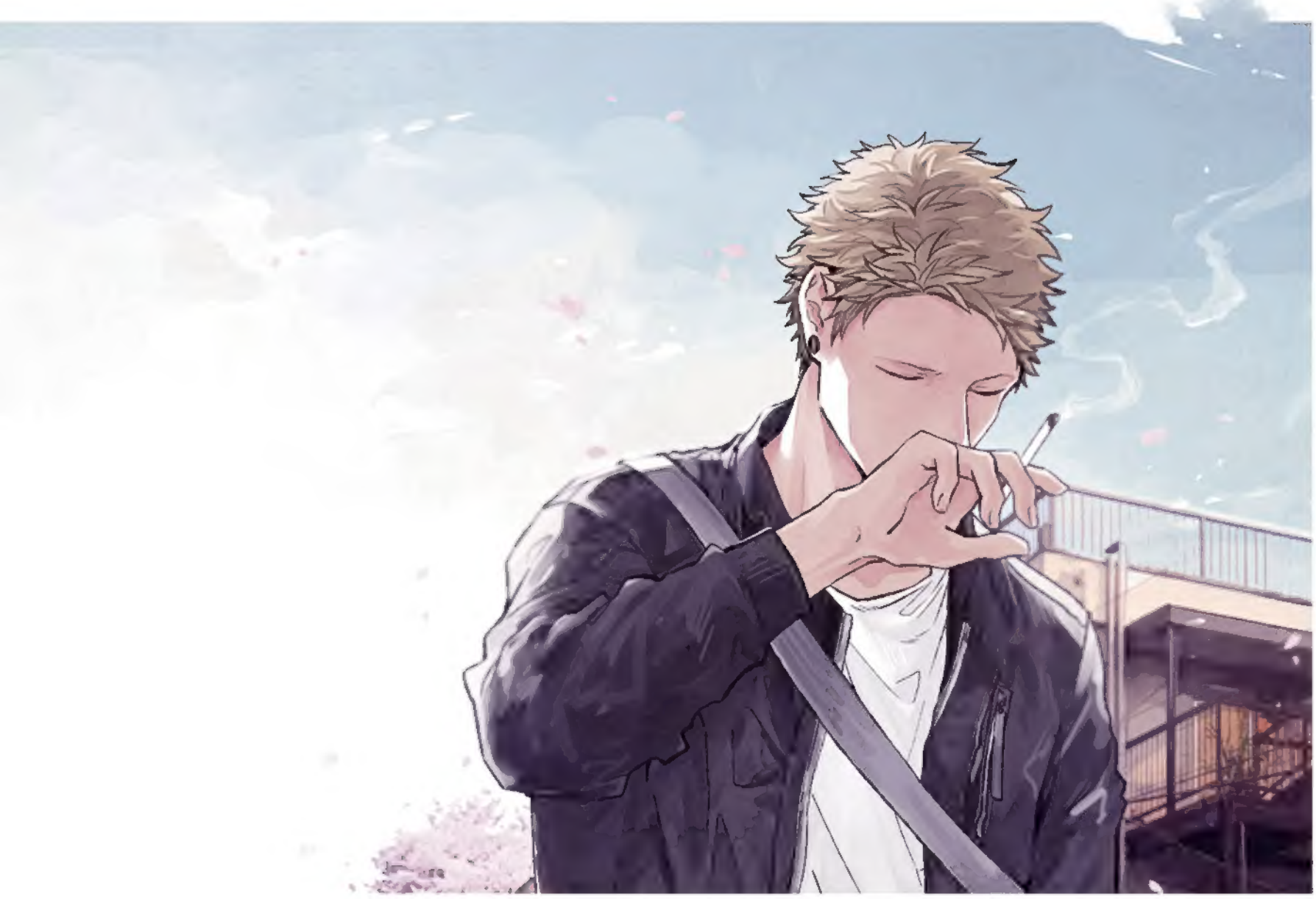
RAWS:	LUX
TRANSLATION:	KOOKIE
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ENG PROOF:	BOO, RYAN
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ギヴン キヅナツキ





ギヴン 5

given

キヅナツキ





given



Uenoyama Ritsuka
〈Gt.〉

A guitarist with skills unattributed to High School students.
Very caring, compassionate, and enthusiastic.
Mutually in love with Mafuyu.



Satou Mafuyu
〈Gt.&Vo.〉

Attends the same high school as Uenoyama. Possesses an impressive singing voice.
Grew attached to Uenoyama after Uenoyama repaired his broken guitar for him.

High school student Uenoyama Ritsuka was stunned by Satou Mafuyu's singing voice when he accidentaly discovered him singing. Soon after, Mafuyu was invited by Uenoyama to join him, Kaji Akihiko, and Nakayama Haruki as their band's vocalist. They began composing music with the intention of performing live, but Mafuyu who was in charge of writing the song lyrics, was unable to complete the song. In the past, Mafuyu lost his childhood friend-turned-lover because of a few harsh words he spoke to him during an emotional outburst. As a result of which, he became unable to give voice to his feelings. However, on the day of the live performance, as if having a breakthrough, Mafuyu was able to sing by pouring out all of his emotions into the song and their performance was a big success. At the same time, Uenoyama became aware of his own feelings for Mafuyu and kissed him off-stage, and the pair began dating.

**On the other side, taking a step forward by aiming to participate in a music festival next, the leader of their band 'Given' – Haruki – has been secretly in love with Akihiko. But Akihiko continued to be involved with his housemate and ex-boyfriend – the genius violinist, Murata Ugetsu.
Feeling cornered by the stalemate of his relationship with Ugetsu, Akihiko assaults Haruki. Nevertheless, being unable to just stand by and watch Akihiko in so much pain, Haruki reaches out to him but has his heart further broken when Akihiko rejects even that.
Still, seeing as Akihiko has nowhere to go after leaving Ugetsu's home, unable to remain indifferent, he consents to Akihiko living with him as a freeloader...**



Murata Ugetsu

Genius Violinist.
Kaji's ex-boyfriend.
Maintained a sexual relationship even after breaking up.



Kaji Akihiko
〈Dr.〉

University student.
Violin major. Can more or less play the guitar and bass.
Been in a relationship with Ugetsu since high school.



Nakayama Haruki
〈Ba.〉

Graduate student who goes to the same University as Akihiko.
Mediator as well as the leader of the band 'Given'.
Despite being unrequitedly in love with Akihiko, has put him up at his apartment as a freeloader.

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ギヴン given

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The Eve of Emergence 201


キヅナツキ
YEAH,
YEAH?
DING DONG ♪
!


I DIDN'T HEAR FROM YOU AFTER THAT, SO...
EH?! AH!
I'M HERE TO CHECK ON YOU.
YO!
TAKE-CHAN?!
OH, THANK YOU.
HERE YOU GO, SOME GREEN PEPPERS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE.
AH...
TH-
THAT IS, UHH...


HAAH?!!
CRUSH
roll

given

code.22




YOU'RE LIVING WITH KAJI NOW?!!
SHHH!!!
CLUNK
THUD
PULL
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WAI- WAIT.
TIME OUT!
SHOW ME!!
JOLT
!!!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?! THE PLACE HAS COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO KAJI AKIHIKO'S NEST!!
BAM
YES...
BED
DRUM STICKS
JUST HOW BRAZEN ARE YOU GUYS?!


?
BUT, YOU.....
...UGH.
WHAT?!
CLANK
.....!


BANG
I GET IT!! TAKE-CHAN, I GET IT! SO CAN WE PLEASE TAKE THIS OUTSIDE?!
HUH? DID SOMEONE COME OVER?
CLUNK
CLUNK
YATAKE-SAN IS HERE...!!
STOP THAT!


.....
...WELL,

Actually...


The fact that Haruki seemed to have fallen for Kaji,
is something that I was faintly aware of from the very beginning.
That day,
Haruki, who had come over to my place,
didn't offer any explanation.
"I had a small fight with Akihiko" - was all he said.



Although it was clear that something had happened between the two of them,

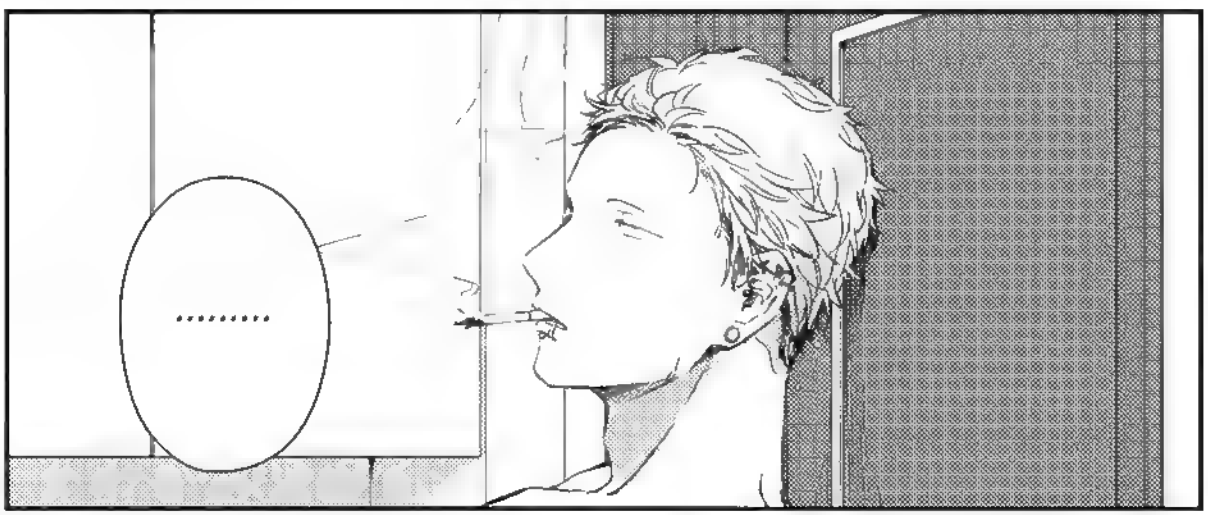
that made him want to cut off his feelings, which had piled on for years, overnight...

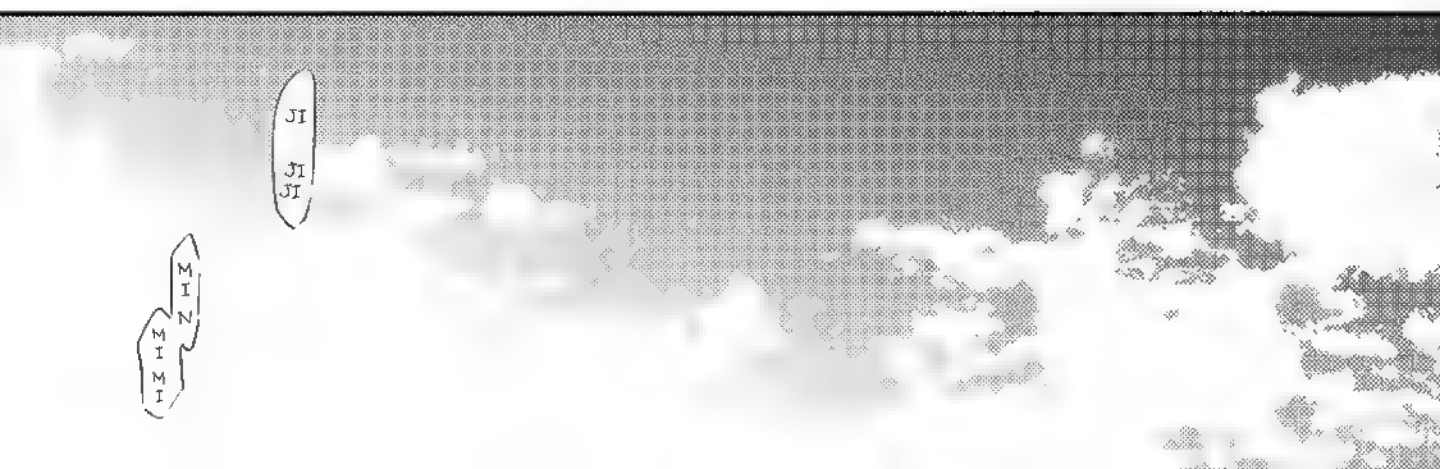

THE MATTER OF PLAYING SUPPORT, I HEARD YOU'VE DECLINED...?
AHH... WELL, UHM...
RATHER THAN DECLINE, I PUT IT ON HOLD...
YET WHY ARE YOU KEEPING KAJI AKIHIKO WITH YOU?!
I REALLY AM SORRY FOR NOT CONTACTING YOU.
GEEZ~~~ ISN'T IT FINE TO JUST GO THERE?!
POINT
ALTHOUGH, I WAS TOLD I COULD DROP BY ANYTIME, APPARENTLY...
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO STAND UP FOR THAT GIGOLO?!
AH!
A SLIP OF THE TONGUE.
TAKE-CHAN, YOU REALLY DO HATE AKIHIKO, DON'T YOU...?
WASP


AND I COULDN'T REALLY RAISE THE TOPIC WITH THE TWO YOUNG ONES IN MY BAND...
I FELT LIKE I WAS USING ANOTHER BAND AS A PLACE TO RUN AWAY TO,
AHH...
IT ISN'T LIKE I'M DEFENDING HIM OR ANYTHING, BUT,
THINGS WEREN'T GOING TOO WELL FOR ME UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.
.....
SO I FIGURED MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TALKING ABOUT IT ONCE WITH THEM AS WELL.
THUS, ON HOLD.
DID YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF A BREAKTHROUGH?
HMM, I GUESS SO.


TAKE-SAN, YOU'RE SO COOL...
THANK YOU.
WELL, IF YOU'RE ALRIGHT THEN TAKE-SAN IS OKAY WITH IT.


THAT TRADE-MARK JOKE I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT...
SHALL I MIMIC THE SOUND MARIO MAKES WHEN HE JUMPS?


.....


JI
JI
JI
MI
MI
MI
MI


HARUKI-SAN,
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOTTEN SO MUCH BETTER LATELY.
.....
Fidget
YOU... NEED TO WORK HARDER TO IMPROVE A LITTLE MORE...
SHWIPP
THANK YOU!
I CAN LISTEN TO THE MUSIC REALLY WELL, AND IT HELPS ME.
.....
RUSH
AH,
THE DRUMS ARE ALSO SYNCING WELL WITH THE MUSIC...


During our breaks, I find myself thinking that I can't wait to leave already... more than a few times.
.....
BEEP
WHIRR
Tch...
HE CLICKED HIS TONGUE.
But when it comes to music, as always, Uenoyama is a demon.
YOU WERE OUT OF SYNC IN THE BEGINNING!
I was worried that he would become weirdly soft once he began dating Mafuyu.
However, the thought that,
"We are going to participate in a contest with a chance to perform at a music festival" keeps me going.
We persist solely for the sake of achieving that goal.


There were also times when we couldn't.
We spend almost every day at the studio.
And the rest of our time is spent outside the studio, each of us working part-time to pay the studio fees.



Without us noticing it, the end of August inched closer.


THE LYRICS...
ARE STILL LACKING.


FOR THE FIRST LIVE TOO, I WAS UNDECIDED ABOUT THE LYRICS UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE.
IS IT OKAY TO BE SO EASYGOING?
THE CONTEST IS IN AUTUMN.
UWAAH!
EXCITED
HE'S GOING ON ABOUT IT AGAIN!
This is fun!
BE CAREFUL OR I MIGHT BREAK THAT FINGER OF YOURS, ALRIIIIGHT?


NO WAY...
IF I WERE A BAND MEMBER, I WOULD DEFINITELY NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.
TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THAT!


HIIRAGI, HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH NEW LYRICS?
SIMPLY PUT, BY THE *FEELING* OF THE MUSIC.
FEELING?
WELL, IT REALLY DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF SONG YOU WANT TO WRITE.
ANYWAY, WHAT TYPE OF SONG IS IT, THIS TIME...
AH!
CHATTER
CHATTER
OHH, IS THAT YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND?
YOU'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?

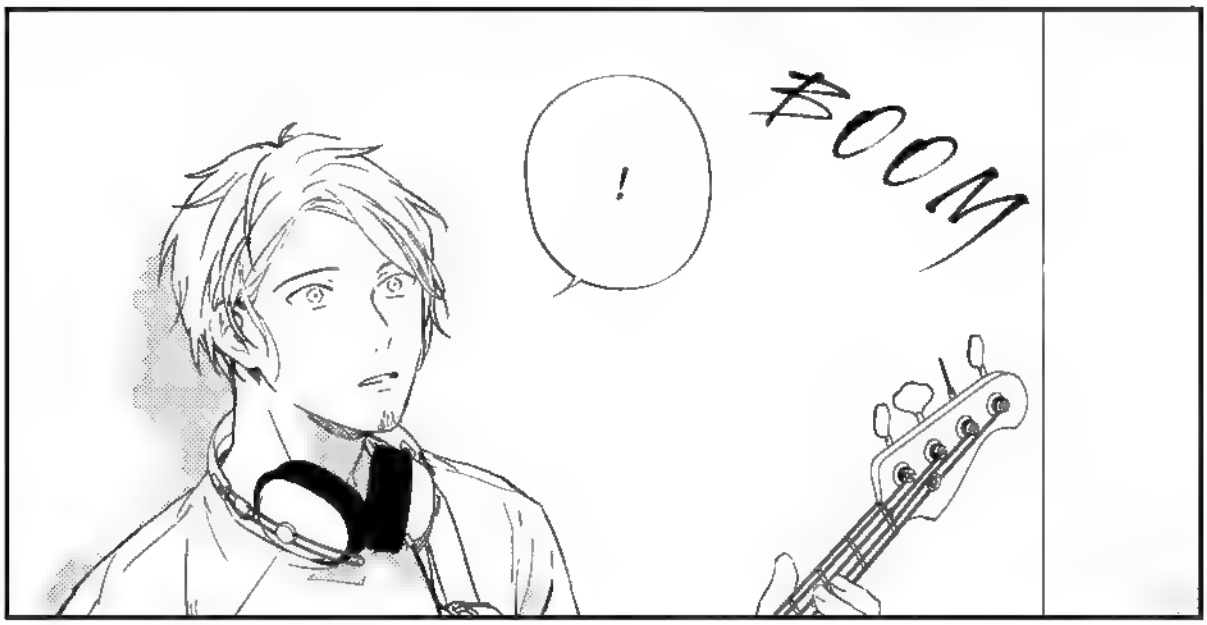

HIIRAGI,
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME WITH THE YUKATA.
IT'S ALRIGHT, HIS AURA IS NOT AS CONSPICUOUS AS YOURS IS.
HE HAS SOME KIND OF AN AURA...
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM ANYWAYS?
MAFUYU!
I feel sorry for Shizu-chan, y'know
HAAH?!!
HURRY UP AND GET TOGETHER WITH SHIZU-CHAN.
CHATTER
STEP
HEY...


.....SHIZU'S SO LATE...!
HOW'S MY YUKATA?
I'M FEELING REALLY OUT OF PLACE, BUT. I GUESS IT'S GOOD.
I SEE.
Daze...
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD SHOW UP WEARING A YUKATA!!
YEA...
THE FIRE-WORKS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN.
LATELY IT'S NEVER ANYTHING BUT WORKING PART-TIME OR PRACTICING AT THE STUDIO.
Together.
ALSO, YOU AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO EVEN SPEA...
THIS FEELS NEW, SEEING YOU OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL OR THE STUDIO.
YEAH.


SELF-LOATHING
WE DID THOUGH? WE FOUGHT ONCE.
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME WHEN HARUKI-SAN SUDDENLY CUT HIS HAIR?
THERE WAS THIS STRANGE TENSION BETWEEN HIM AND KAJI-SAN...
SPEAKING OF FIGHTS,
RESURRECTED
BUZZ
BUZZ
I GUESS SOMETHING REALLY DID HAPPEN...
Chatter
Chatter
EH?


.....? YOU COULDN'T TELL BY WATCHING THEM...??
HUH?
?
EH?
WHAT...?
OH...
UMM, I THINK,
I...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
BOOM
...?
...HUH...
HARUKI-SAN'S PROBABLY GIVEN UP ON KAJI-SAN...
?!! WHAT... DID YOU JUST SAY?!!
FLICKER
FIZZ
FLICKER




!
BOOM

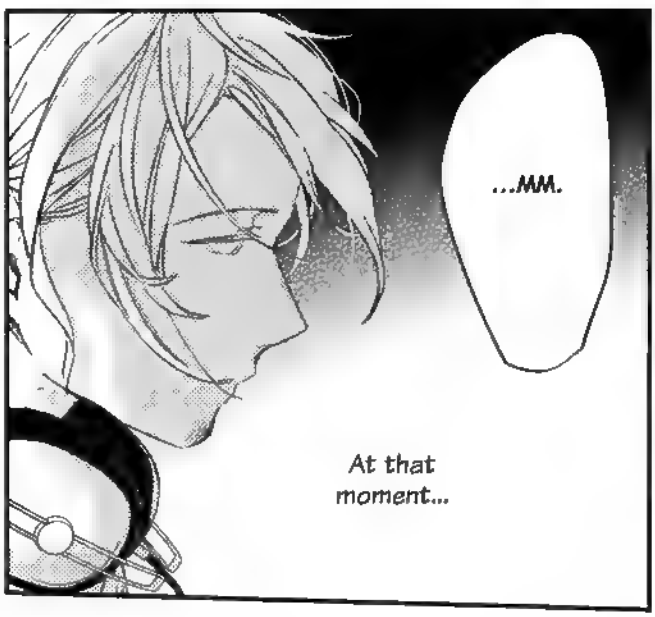

IT'S FAR AWAY BUT WE CAN SEE IT FROM THE BALCONY...
BOOM
THOUGH IT'S MUCH QUIETER.
AH...! THERE'S A FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT THE FESTIVAL TODAY!
SLIDE
BOOM

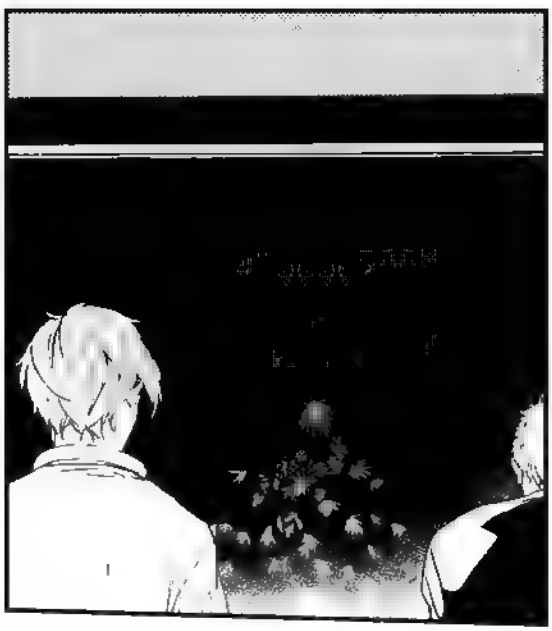

BANG
NOT AT ALL.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WATCH IT FROM YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE HIGH ABOVE GROUND HERE.
BANG
AMAZING...
BANG
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO TELL THAT THERE'S FIREWORKS OUTSIDE.
IT'S HALF UNDERGROUND,
AND SOUND-PROOFED.
AS IT IS, NOW I'M SCARED OF THAT...


I'M QUITE EXHAUSTED NOW...
BUT,
.....
...DID YOU NOT GO OUT TO WATCH IT TOGETHER WITH THEM?
...NOPE.
.....
THE TWO OF US,
WE'RE ALMOST OVER.


I MEAN, I WAS ONLY A SEX FRIEND AND A GIGOLO.
THERE WAS NO REAL RELATIONSHIP.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
YOU CLEARLY LOVE THAT PERSON VERY MUCH.
.....
I WAS DUMPED A LONG TIME AGO.
DESPITE THAT IT WAS JUST ME WHO HAS BEEN HANGING ON UP. UNTIL... ngh...
I DID LOVE THEM.


BUT NOW,
IT'S SUFFOCATING.


...MM.
At that moment...




For the first time ever,
I felt that Akihiko and I were the same.
HEY,


THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY HERE.
YOU'RE WELCOME.


PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUTHOR BY PURCHASING A COPY IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
AND SUPPORT OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
THANK YOU FOR READING!
SPRING TURTLE SCANS

given

Natsuki Kizu
presents


Tonight
Tonight
Tonight


BESIDES,
IF IT'S UP TO YOU,
I THINK THE FOOD
WOULD ALWAYS
TASTE THE SAME.

given | code.23



ALL THAT'S LEFT
NOW IS TO SYNC UP
THE LAST PART
A BIT MORE...

RIGHT BEFORE
THE OUTRO.






OKAY.

END
THE
DING
NE.

for the
time being,

I'll e
your
RECOR
ON LI

fight before
the end of the
summer break.

PLEASE CHECK
THE SOUND BY
YOURSELVES
LATER.

KNOW THAT
NG UNABLE TO MAKE
LIZE THE LYRICS
OUR VICE, BUT

YOUR
LYRICS?

BY THE
WAY, WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I
BEIN
FINAL
IS Y

. SHALL WE
AD BACK?

HEY, JIM'S
ALMOST UP.

OH.
WE HE

CLINK

HARUKI, YOU
GOT ANY PLANS
AFTER THIS?

WILL BE
LEAVING
BECAUSE
IT'S 10 PM.

WE HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS,

NOPE.

THEY REALLY ARE...

THEY'RE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE.

.....AND, UHH.

UHHHH.

DID SOMETHING EVEN HAPPEN BETWEEN THOSE TWO..?

BUT THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

fuyuis
ng over to
the night
y place.

Ma
headir
spend
at m





SHUT

WHERE ARE MOM AND DAD?

HIS HOUSE
AR AWAY, A
IT'S REALL
LATE NOW S
WE'LL BE
GONG TO
SCHOOL

ALRIGHT THEN, HURRY UP AND HOP IN THE BATH.

FROM HERE, TOMORROW.

YOU G
FIRST

I'LL BE THE LOOKOUT.

THEY WENT TO BED AFTER BATHING.

THE KID FROM YOUR ABAND?

..... YOUR FACES ARE SCARY ALIKE.

*ANEKI-BIG SISTER

ALRIGHT!

I'LL SLEEP ON THE BED...

...YOU, ON THE FLOOR.

YEAH.

GOOD NIGHT.

...IF YOU THINK ABOUT THIS IS SUDDEN DEVELOP-

I'LL BE

To begin with, it's not that she doesn't think of me as a boyfriend

And

More specifically, what does she really want but to do?

To a shocking extent

But...
what about
Mafuyu?

And I wonder
whenever it
happens, as it
has countless
times before,

However, I've
become able
to maintain
composure.

Do I want
to hurt him?
What is it
that I want
to do...

I can't
understand...

...I'M BEING
UNABLE TO
COMPLETE THE
LYRICS OF THE
SONG

IS THE SAME
AS THE ONE AT
YUU KOES

A.S

thought...

esting

me.

!

NB

TALLY
NOW
UCH.

I SAID SOME THING.

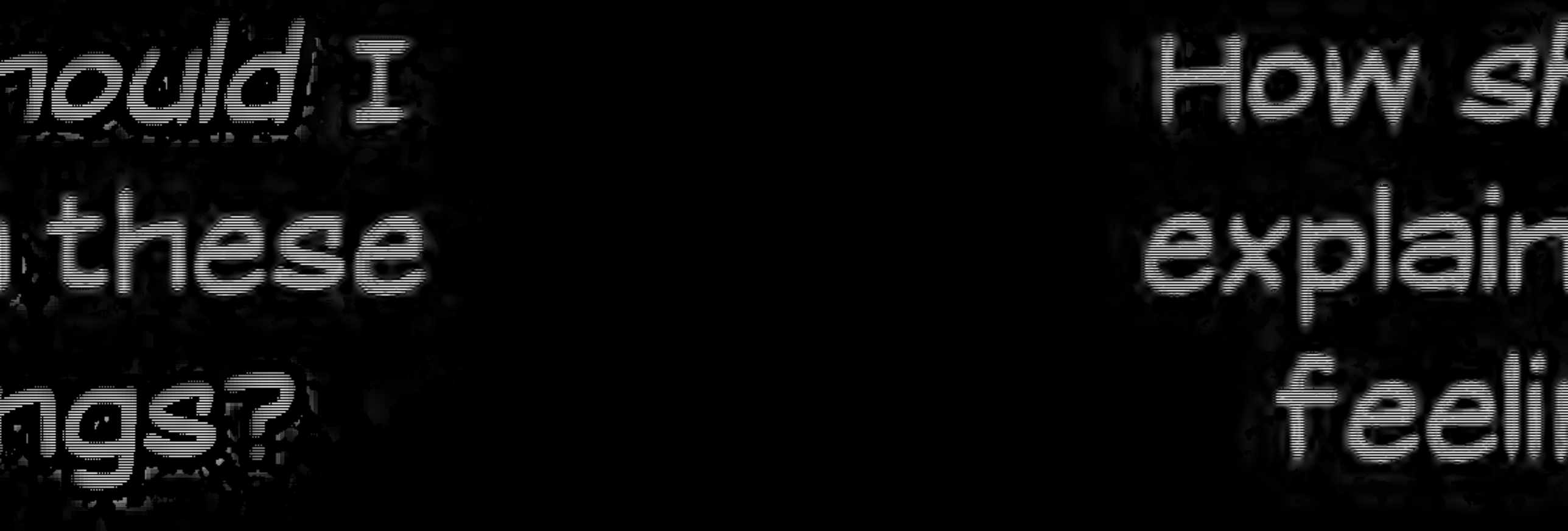
STR-
ANGE.

Who the chell Who is dese people?

ABOUT YOUR PAST...

NO! THAT'S NOT IT!




How should I
explain these
feelings?

NG A
OULD
CH A
TE..

IT'S
2AM!

TAKIN
TAXI W
EE SU
WAS

THE LAST
TRAIN MUSTVE
LEFT AGES
AGO!

WE COULD
JUST WALK.

WE COULD
JUST WALK.

YOU
CRAZY?

H...
WHAT? TO
WALK...
FROM HERE?

LET'S GET SOME FUEL

FUEL?

IT'S A TSUCKQUAN-TOWED BY THE SALT-FISH DRAGONFLY.
SHUCKQUAN IS A PREPARATION OF FISH PRESERVED IN SALT
AND THE WHITE TAIL OF THE SALT-FISH DRAGONFLY LOOKS
LIKE IT HAS BEEN DIPPED IN SALT.

IT WAS SWINGING ON A BLADE OF GRASS.

SALT-FISH DRAGONFLY

NOW PUT IT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT!

HOW DO YOU EVEN

AGONFLIES HAVE 360° VISION

*TYN: DRA

DIN

SQ

BOXING

YOU'RE
IDDING
IGHT?!

UHM...
I HAD THAT THING
IDEA.....
DISTRACT-
ING THE
DRAGONFLY
TO CATCH
AH!T..?

YOU THE

OH!
THAT!

APPARENTLY
IT'S
USELESS.

K
R

Shrink

with

Hercules

unbelievably
fun.

given

Natsuki Kizu
presents

ji ji ji

moosh

.....

clack

tmp

Uenoyama and Mafuyu are back in school now that summer break is over and classes have begun.

G'MORNING.

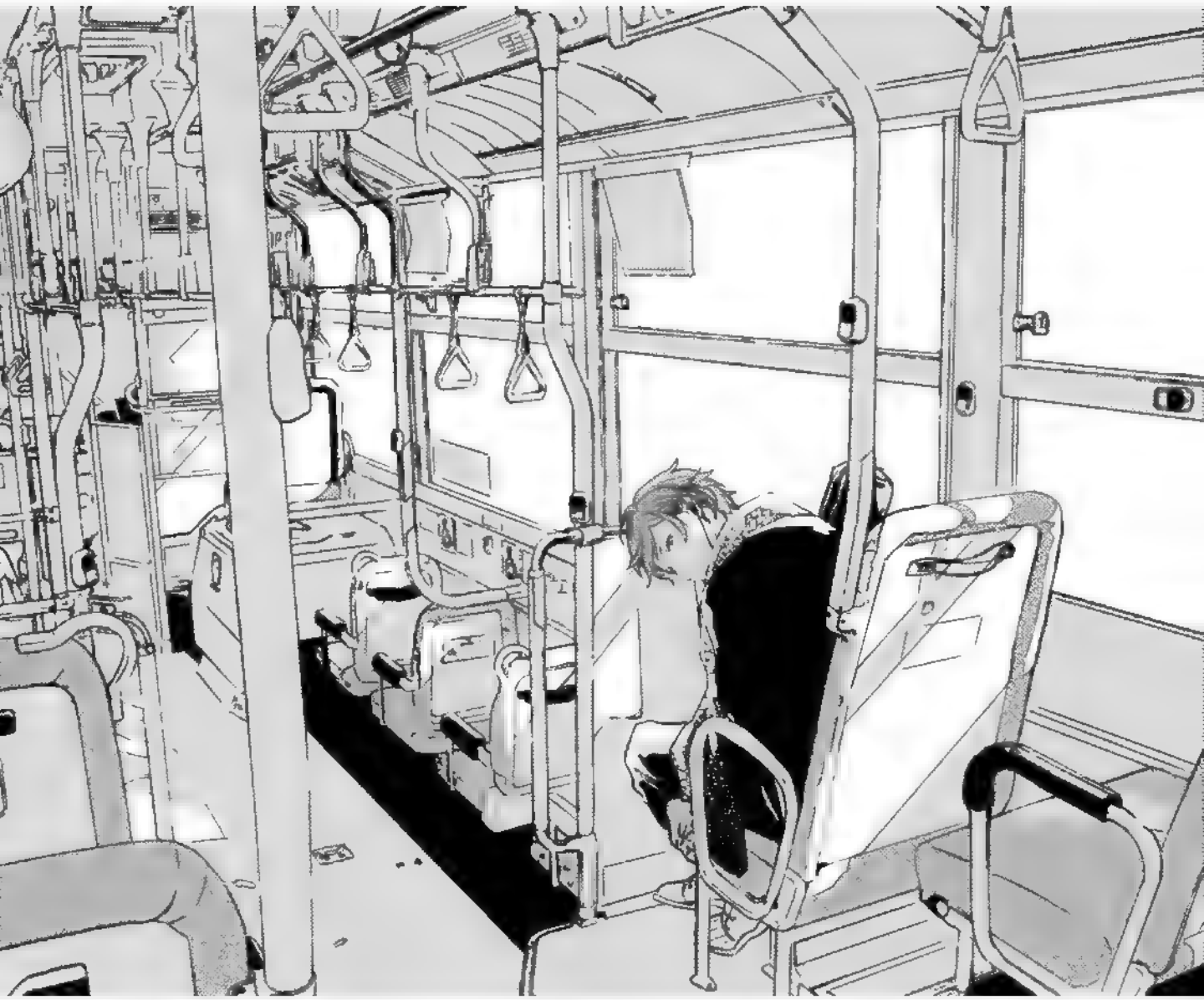
.....

'MORNING.

The month on the calendar changed to September...

And lately,

I feel Akihiko has been lost somewhere deep in his thoughts.



given | code.24

THE FOOD~

FOR

THANKS

CHATTER

CHATTER

AT LAST!
THE DAYS FINALLY
SEEM COLDER...

THE CONTEST IS COMING UP SOON, ISN'T IT?

YEAH.

BUT HEY, DOESN'T THIS FEEL LIKE A TOURNA-MENT?

I GUESS IT'S ALMOST THE SAME.

A COUPLE OF FIRST YEARS IN THE SOCCER CLUB EVEN COLLAPSED!

WHA-?

SUMMER IS POWERFUL~

OH YEAH, CLUB ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER WAS HELL.

OUR GYM IS CRAP, HUH...

POWER-FUL~

BETTER THAN THE GYM.

IS THE BAND COOL?

WOAH! JUST LIKE A CLUB!

DURING THE HOLIDAYS, MOSTLY.

DO YOU HAVE BAND PRACTICE EVERY DAY, LIKE IN SCHOOL CLUBS?

.....IT'S NEXT MONTH...

WHEN IS IT, THE FINAL ROUND?

The third round of the Countdown Fest,

will be a general live-format contest.

WE WILL BE JUDGED LIVE.

your majesty's strategy

"WHAT DO WE DO"..? WELL, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

SLURRPPP

IF WE DON'T FINISH COMPOSING THIS NEW SONG ON TIME, WE'LL JUST PERFORM THE OTHER ONE,

WE ONLY NEED ONE SINGLE TO BE ABLE TO ENTER, RIGHT?

BUT,

IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO GO WITH THE ONE WE'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON.

WHY IS THAT?

BECAUSE, MOST OF THE AUDIENCE WHO'LL BE PRESENT THERE, COULD HAVE ALREADY LISTENED TO THE OTHER SONG ON THE INTERNET, RIGHT?

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY IF WE WERE TO PERFORM THAT ONE, THEY MIGHT LOOK FORWARD TO IT THINKING, "THIS IS *THAT BAND*."

THAT IS A GOOD POINT,

HOWEVER, IT WON'T HAVE QUITE THE SAME IMPACT AS A NEW SONG...

I...

MAFUYU HAS GOT GREAT POTENTIAL, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IT.

BECAUSE THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY, I WANT TO GO ALL OUT.

I THINK WE CAN CLIMB TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

ANYWAY, THE LYRICS!

CHICKEN NUGGETS

COO!!?

WHOA, SO COOL.

WHOA, SO COOL.

ANNOY-INGGGG!

WHOA, SO COOL.

!?

It can't be helped if the lyrics aren't completed

---is what we told him, but...

Mafuyu had let on some time ago that the "next time," he wanted to "write a different song".

I WONDER IF HE FEELS LIKE HE'S HIT A WALL...

.....HE'S ALWAYS ASLEEP DURING LUNCH BREAK THESE DAYS...

HM? NO- HE'S ACTUALLY THE TYPE TO SLEEP DURNG LUNCH

...A DIFFERENT SONG, HUH...

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE YOU SHOULD TRY ANOTHER APPROACH, MAYBE?

Huh?

FOR THE SONG, I MEAN.

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN MULLING OVER THIS LATELY, EVEN AFTER YOU GET HOME?

UH NO... WATCHING YOU...

SURPRISED

.....

...I COULD TELL.

...NOTHING COMES TO MIND AT ALL. NOTHING'S BEEN INSPIRING ME.

WHATEVER PIECE SEEMS FITTING, FEELS... LACKING.

SOMEHOW, AT THIS POINT,

...JUST THAT,

!

WHY DON'T YOU GO SEARCH THEN?

...BE IT THE FEELINGS PRACTICALLY *SURGING* INSIDE YOU,

MAFUYU, AREN'T YOU ONE WHO IS INFLUENCED BY YOUR SURROUNDINGS? AND DON'T YOU USE THAT AS YOUR INSPIRATION TO CREATE...?

SO HOW ABOUT YOU JUST GO SEARCH FOR ALL SORTS OF STUFF?

.....

.....

...NAH,

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU'RE PRACTICING THE VIOLIN DILIGENTLY. MORE THAN I THOUGHT YOU DID.

.....WHAT IS IT?

'THAT SO?

EVEN THOUGH YOU PRACTICE IT MORE THAN THE DRUMS...

NO,

THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE DEDICATED TO IT.

*T/N: MUSIC PIECES

...HMMM?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THERE'S A FAMOUS GUY IN OUR UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?

THERE ARE EVEN SET PIECES* FOR THAT PURPOSE.

WELL, I'LL GET RUSTY IF I DON'T PRACTICE SOME...

IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM VIOLINISTS WHO ARE THE REAL DEAL.

I'M ONLY DOING THE "*REQUISITE BARE MINIMUM*" AND THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR ME.

AH!

WHAT WAS HIS NAME..

HE WAS ON THE NEWS RECENTLY AFTER WINNING SOME CONTEST OVERSEAS..

A VIOLINIST?

"MURATA UGETSU"?

CRASH

LIM,

CLASH

EXCUSE-

OUT

GOSH! YOU STARTLED ME..

I'M SORRY FOR ENTERING

BUT I HEARD A REALLY LOUD CRASH.

AH.....

...HUH.

..I THOUGHT AKIHIKO HAD COME BACK.

IS KAJI-SAN NOT HERE NOW?

I-

I CAME TO SEE YOU, UGETSU-SAN!

DID YOU COME HERE TO SEE AKIHIKO?

gulp

.....

IF IT IS OKAY WITH YOU...

COULD YOU PLEASE SUPERVISE MY PRACTICE?

?

.....ME?

16:21

Ping

I'VE FINISHED PREPPING FOR KARAAGE*

*T/N: DEEP FRIED CHICKEN

...YEAH,

WHAT? AN E-MAIL?

HARUKI!

.....IT'S FINALLY HERE, HUH.

FROM THE CAC ADMIN.

IT'S THE LOCATION AND SCHEDULE OF THE FINALE...

Inbox

CAC administration office
This E-mail has been sent to the registered E-mail address of the representative members of the contestants who have cleared the 2nd round of the Countdown Fest Amateur Contest and have qualified for participation in the 3rd round
As informed earlier, following are the details of the venue and timings for the 3rd round

= = = =

SLIDE

MAFUYU!

DID YOU CHECK YOUR PHONE?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE DATES OF THE FINALE.

WILL YOU MAKE IT IN TIME?

I'VE COMPLETED THE LYRICS

IT'S DONE.

MM-HMM...

.....WE CAN DO THIS.

September,

with the contest finale approaching,

the pieces were all set.

achoo—

SHOULD I CLOSE THE WINDOW?

HAH??

THAT SNEEZE WAS REAL CUTE.

A fall season we couldn't turn back from was about to begin.

given

Natsuki Kizu
presents

AKIHIKO,

AKIHIKO?

RING RING

HE SHOULD'VE RETURNED AGES AGO

BEEP

"LET'S GO WATCH THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONTEST?"

TMP

DIDN'T HE COME BACK?

RING RING RING

EVEN F HE WORKED THE N GHT SH FT,

— SN'T THAT WHAT YOU SA D...

.....

BZZ

BZZ

BZZ

BZZ

BZZ

Nakayama Haruki

Mobile

Mute

Decline

Message

Answer

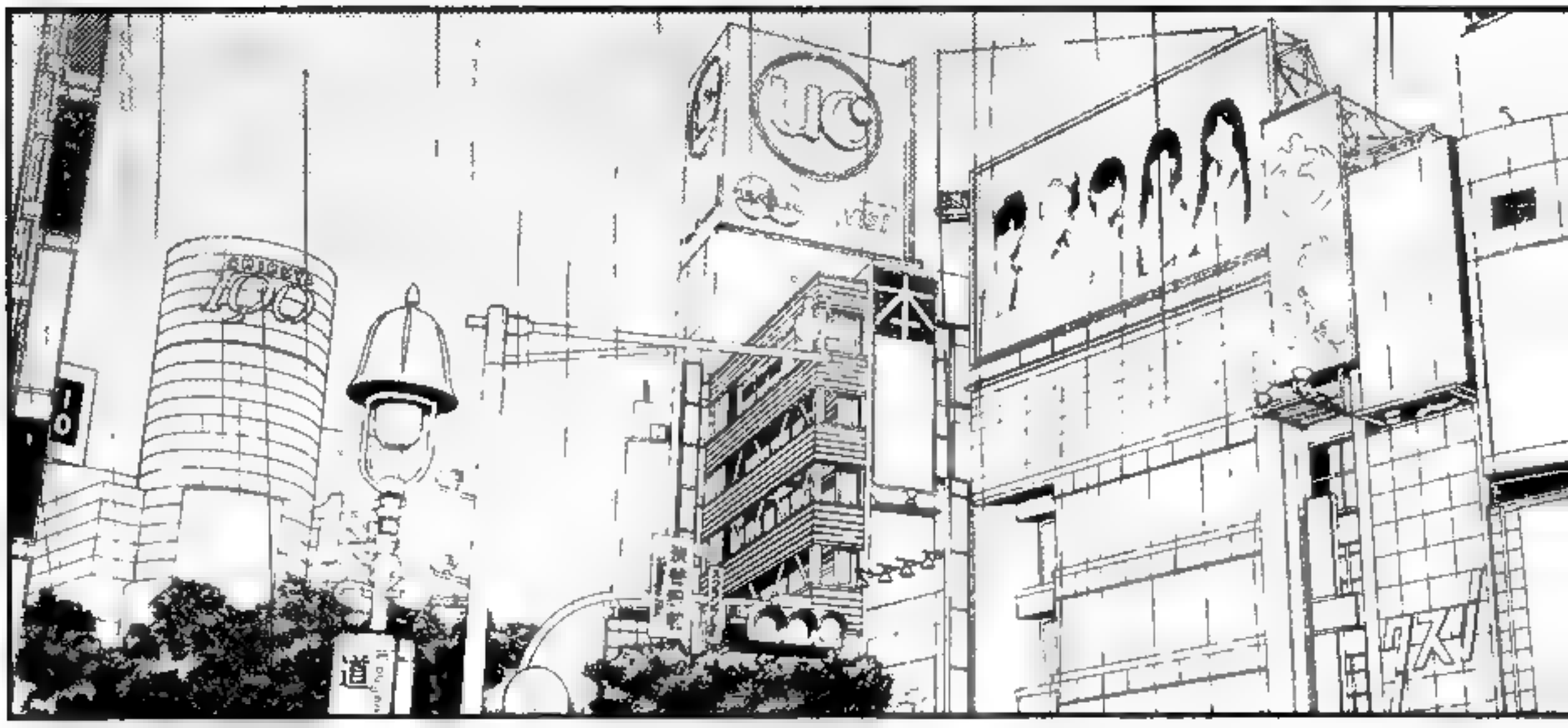
BZZ

BUZZ

Connecting to voicemail.

given code.25






buzz
buzz

BALLOT PAPERS, HERE YOU GO.

DAY.1

MAFUYU!

HIIRAGI!

Autumn

greeted October,

and the first day of the LIVE contest was about to begin.

COUNTDOWN
AMATEUR
COTEST18
DAY.1

Yagi Shizusumi
drummer

ARE MY CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, SHIZUSUMI,

UHM, THESE TWO,

chatter

UENOYAMA-KUN,

AND

HIIRAGI.

Kashima Hiiragi,
bass and vocal

chatter

AAH... HELLO.

THEY'RE BOTH PARTICIPATING AS WELL. THEY'LL BE PERFORMING TODAY.

I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT UENOYAMA-KUN BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?

.....BOY-FRIEND?

.....EH.

PFF

eccentric

MY BOYFRIEND.

HE'S THE GUITARIST IN OUR BAND.

BOOM

OH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN HIM HUH, SHIZU-CHAN?

.....

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

a person's face or name

Simply cannot remember

MAFUYU?

EH?

WE'VE RUN INTO HIIRAGI BEFORE, REMEMBER?

AREN'T YOU GUYS PERFORMING TOMORROW?

WHATEVER, WHY'RE YOU HERE ANYWAY?

stab stab stab stab stab

YOU'RE TAKING IT EASY, HUH?

WHAT ABOUT PRAC-TICE?

HA?

HMPH!

GROSS.

EH.

UH-HUH, I FEEL YOU.

AFTER ALL YOU'RE HIGH SCHOOLERS, COULD IT BE THAT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GUESTS~

The countdown fest,

popularly know as "CAC" - has a quota of performances for amateurs.

and then over a period of two days- today and tomorrow,

these groups will perform live onstage and the winner is selected by popular vote.

The first round of screening is a document review.

The second round is via online voting, following which,

the participants are narrowed down to about a few dozen groups,

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE.

murmur

chatter

chatter

.....EVEN SO,

PROBABLY BECAUSE THIS IS A NORMAL LIVE HOUSE AND NOT ANY SPECIAL KIND OF VENUE.

buzz

EVER BEEN TO WATCH A CONTEST LIKE THIS BEFORE, UENOYAMA-KUN?

NO, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME.

YEAH, IT'S OUR FIRST TIME AS WELL, BUT IT'S QUITE SIMILAR TO A REGULAR LIVE THAN WHAT I'D IMAGINED.

WELL, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

THE FORMAT TODAY IS THAT THE AUDIENCE GETS TO CHOOSE THEIR FAVOURITE THROUGH A VOTING SYSTEM.

I'D VAGUELY IMAGINED IT WOULD BE LIKE A TYPICAL AUDITION.

I EXPECTED THE CONTEST TO BE MORE LIKE, THAT...

He~eh

APPARENTLY THIS WAY THE RESULTS WILL BE REVEALED IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTING.

OI! IT'S WEIRD HOW YOU ALL REACTED THE SAME WAY!

NOD

hey-

SEE THAT PIECE OF PAPER? EVERYONE'S GOT ONE FROM THE RECEPTION.

GOOD LUCK!

!

JUST WATCH.

MMH ALRIGHT THEN, WE'RE GONNA GO MEET UP WITH THE REST OF OUR TEAM NOW.

Ah,

TELL ME LATER WHAT THE CHANGE-OVER IS LIKE.

YEA-

SORRY F—

DASH

chatter

chatter

.....

Hiiragi is always really lively isn't he —

...JUST WHERE IS ALL THAT CONFIDENCE COMING FROM.

THAT'S UNUSUAL.

UM THERE WAS A BIT OF A COMMOTION JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE...

SO IS IT GOING TO START SOON?

HAA

.....BY THE WAY...

YAP

—OR THE WAIT!

HARUKI-SAN!

SORRY I'M LATE...

WHERE IS KAJI-SAN?

SHA

JINGLE

CLACK

tmp

tmp

tmp

CLAP

CLAP

WAAH

OF THE CAC GRAND FINALE!

AKIHIKO IS, UH.....

AND NOW BEGINS DAY ONE

CAC

DU

Y.1

I WAITED AT MY HOUSE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

CLAP

HE WAS GONE WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING.

CLAP

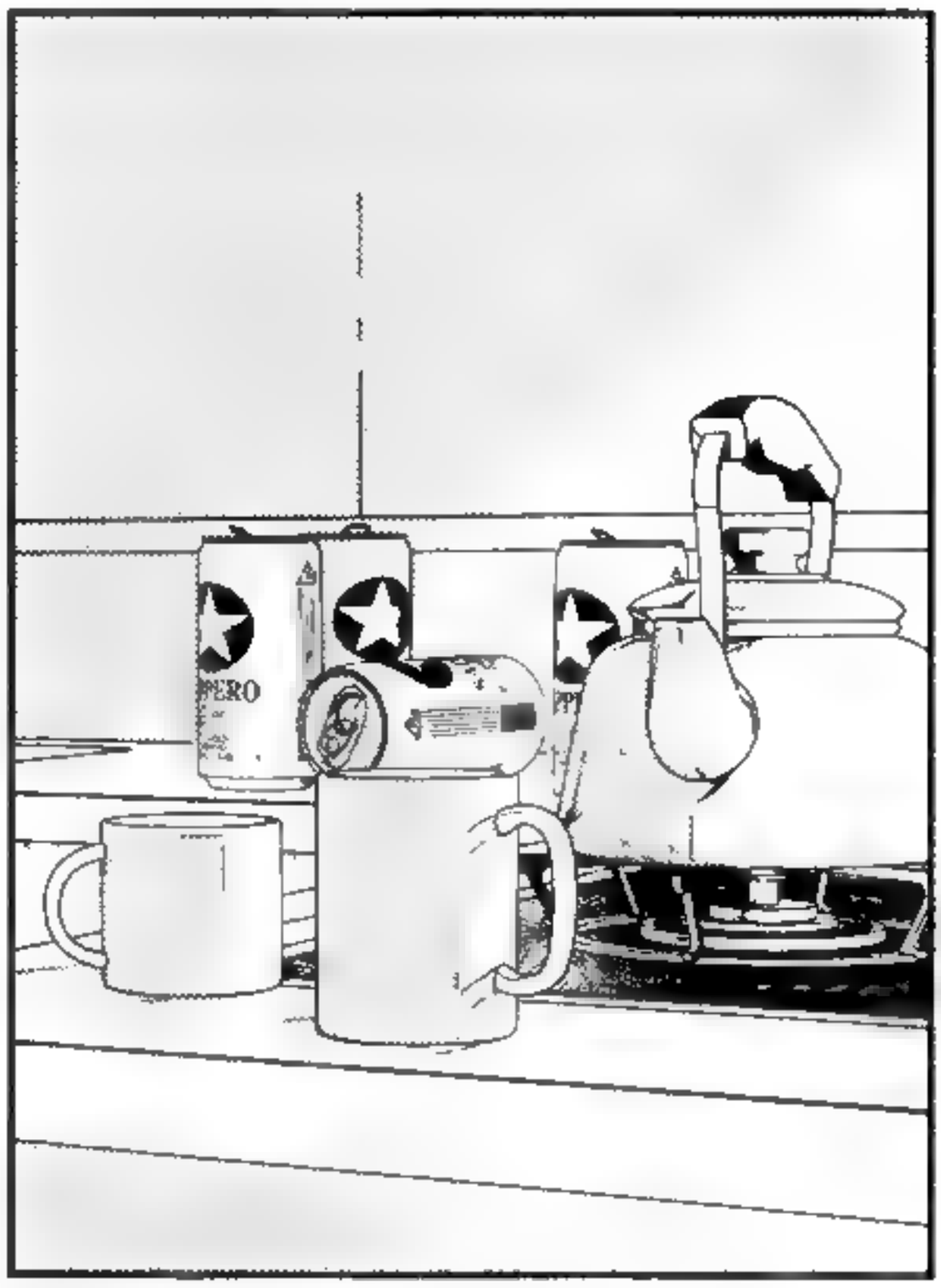
THE FIRST GROUP OF DAY ONE-

AND I COULDN'T GET A HOLD OF HIM EITHER...

AND I THINK HE WILL BE BACK SOON.

BUT THERE'S NO DEEP MEANING TO IT...







AKIHIKO.

「Given」

(Kizu Natsuki)

ISBN 9784403666742

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ギリラスキャン
@kurillascans
ただそれだけのために
あえてリスクを負う



drummer, classically-trained violinist, cooks (only)
several part-time jobs (e.g., convenience store staff, mover, server,
year university student; writes with his left hand (uses
G-SHOCK



AKIHIKO.



AKIHIKO,

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given

Natsuki Kizu
presents


HEY,
.....
HERE'S SOME COFFEE.
DRINK UP.
...SURE.
.....
YOU KNOW,


I'M MOVING OUT.
OH...
IS THAT RIGHT. .
TODAY,
I STOPPED BY JUST TO GRAB A LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT.
YEAH,
THAT'S RIGHT...

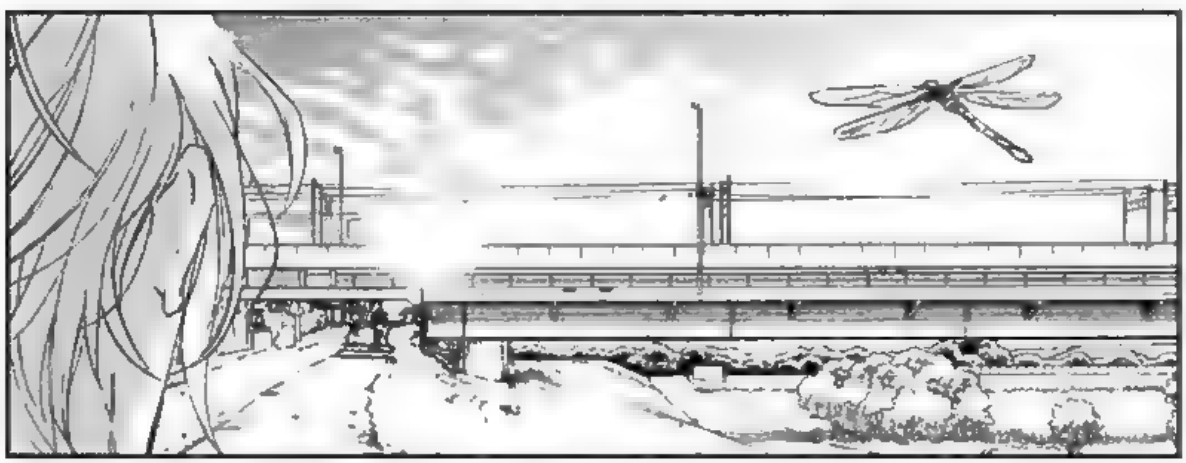

...ISN'T IT TOO MESSY IN HERE?
OH, BE QUIET.
CAN I COOK YOU SOMETHING?
ARE YOU MY MOTHER?
Sit
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WHAT ARE YOU MOVING OUT FOR?
WHY.


FOR A LONG TIME,
I KEPT PLAYING VIOLIN BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE YOUR EQUAL.
I THOUGHT THERE COULD BE NO OTHER INSTRUMENT FOR ME,
AND NO OTHER PERSON BUT YOU.
BUT...
...IT WAS ALWAYS PAINFUL.
BECAUSE MUSIC HAS BEEN FUN LATELY.


I started to play the drums, as though running from the question of whether he was being sarcastic.
So, when Ugetsu suddenly said he wanted to break up,


my passion for music was fading.
At the same time,
It seemed better, more carefree than classical.

Yet...




I WANT TO LEAVE.
I WANT TO LEAVE AND TRY MAKING A DIFFERENT KIND OF MUSIC.
NO.


bam
NO.


WHY?
chatter
ざわ
chatter
ざわ
AZ
AZ
92


HARUKI.
HARUKI.
……
Text me when you get back
ARE YOU WORRIED?
Are you seeing?
されてます!?
I SAID, SHOULD I GO RETURN THE GLASSES?
OH.
OH! SORRY!!
……
THANK YOU.


whip
HUH!?
YOU TWO ARE LIVING TOGETHER NOW, RIGHT?
...? YEAH.
ABOUT KAJI.
JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW...
WHA-
WHA-
Ah ha ha
YOU LOOK TROUBLED.
NOW AND THEN,
WHAT!?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING.


AFTER ALL, HARUKI,
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH KAJI.
HUH?
BUT IT'S OKAY.
AKIHIKO IS JUST STAYING OVER FOR THE TIME BEING.
.....
AND THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN HIM AND ME.
BESIDES,
.....?
LIKE, SORT OF.
RE-, REALLY...
WAS I THAT EASY TO READ?
sigh
IT'S TOTALLY POINTLESS NOW,
BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY EITHER.
sigh


REALLY?
grr"!

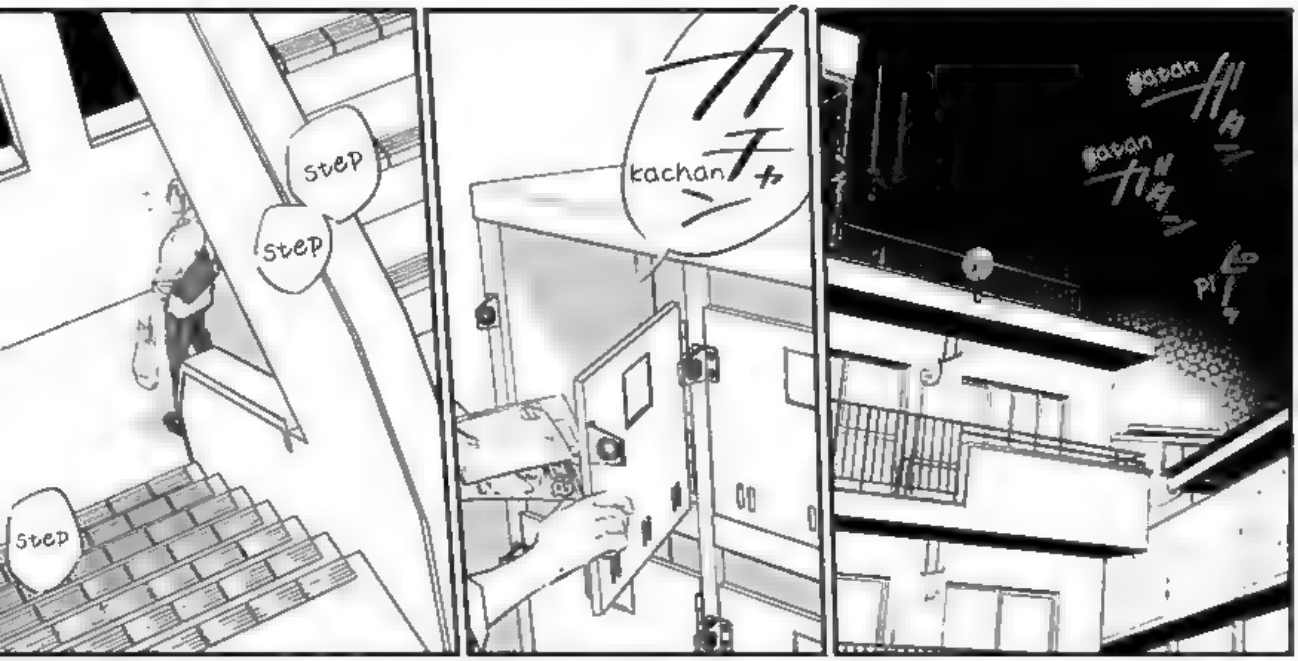

HUH?
why are they angry!?
That's it. Mafuyu, we're leaving!
Hey, what's with you!?



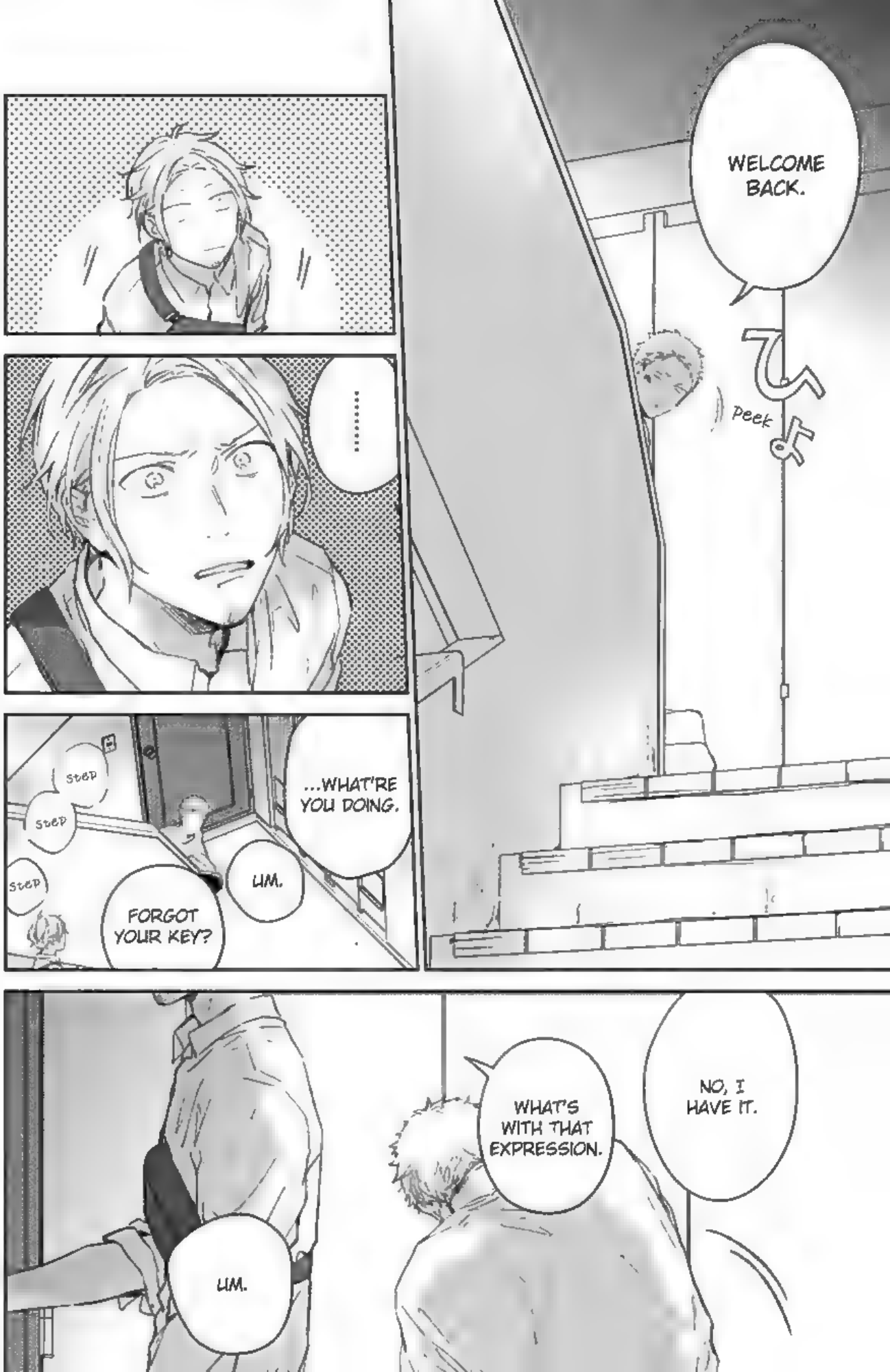

Well,
it's not like my love suddenly vanished, but...
HAVING SAID THAT,
ALREADY,
IT FEELS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
I was so shocked.


Even if I told you,
it would come to nothing.
Somewhere in my heart,
I've been hoping he'd rely on me.
if offering to help was really begging for attention.
WHEN HE ASKS FOR NOTHING FROM ME,
IT'S TROUBLING.





(train noises)


WELCOME BACK.
Peek
.....
...WHAT'RE YOU DOING.
Step
Step
Step
UM.
FORGOT YOUR KEY?
NO, I HAVE IT.
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION.
UM.


...I'M HOME.
creak
WHAT IS IT?
HARUKI.
gacha gachan
(key noises)
Um...
YOU LOOK LIKE A KID WHO'S GETTING YELLED AT.
...LET ME TELL YOU, NORMALLY I'D BE ANGRY,
BUT I'LL HAVE A SMOKE AND THINK ABOUT IT.
——why.


Why are **you**...
...giving up the violin?
.....
Sigh. Lighter's out.


DON'T GO NOW.
thud
WELL, I'M GONNA RUN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
WHA!?
HUH?



STAY WITH ME.


THAT WAS AWESOME, WASN'T IT?
YEAH...
YEAH, AWESOME...
EVERYONE WAS GOOD.
cowlick
WEREN'T THEY COOL?
HIIRAGI WAS GOOD TOO, RIGHT?
IT'S ANNOYING, BUT HE WAS TOTALLY BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.
HE'S GOT TALENT AS A PRODUCER.
THAT WAS ADVANCED STUFF.
nervous
WHA...
!?
WHAT, WHAT,
WHAT, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
rub
rub
rub
rub
rub


WHAT?
YOU GET NERVOUS!?
WHAT DO I DO? I'M NERVOUS.
nervous
.....
HERE COME MY WANTS...
I GET...
...SCARED.
...I'LL BE ABLE TO SING,
WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHETHER...
I WANT THEM TO UNDERSTAND.
I WANT TO GET THROUGH TO THEM.


YOU'VE CHANGED.




AT FIRST, YOU SAID,
"THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JOIN A BAND."
"MY MIND IS BLANK."
"I CAN'T EXPRESS MYSELF."
SO UNSURE...


C'MERE.
hug
squeeze
IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE THE COOLEST OF THEM ALL.
I UNDER-STAND...
WHY SO STIFF...

Volume 11

Release date: 令和[illegible]年[illegible]月[illegible]日

[illegible] ISBN 978-4-03-666742-[illegible]

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Character list



Kaji Akihiko (梶 秋彦), plays the drums and classical violin, [illegible] part-time jobs (e.g., convenience store staff, mover, [illegible] (second [illegible] at university, writes with his left hand (uses chopsticks with [illegible] wears a [illegible] G-SHOCK.

Nakay[illegible] at [illegible]





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chatter
chatter
chatter
……

code.27

Next, the bass, please.




chatter
"I want to leave and try making a different kind of music,"
is what I said.
Yesterday,
But,
Okay.
THANKS.
Next, guitar, please.
DAY.2
"So then you're quitting the violin!"
is what he said.


chatter
chatter
Vocals, please.
At that moment,
I couldn't come up with a response.
Enough.
That wasn't what I had meant,
but...
Get out.
crash
..I couldn't protest,
"I'm not quitting."


With this half-assed attitude...
WHAT THE...
...to give up music, would everything really turn out well?
clatter
clatter
If I were...
.....!!
HEY,
come on
STOP IT WITH THAT FACE.
whack
!
!?
whip


chatter
chatter
.....
Number fourteen,
Given, please go ahead.
.....
chatter
Now, it's different. I want to create a song.
Before,
I just belted out my words as hard as I could.
exhale


I LOVE UENOYAMA.
exhale
inhale
...?
ISN'T HE POWERING UP A BIT MUCH?
whisper
SING ALREADY!!
?
inhale
exhale
A way to...
new music.
My love,
another's love,


NO WAY.
!?
HUH?
tense
共鳴させるやり方
...make people resonate.
keen


do
...WHAT WAS THAT,
!
tense
JUST NOW...
!!
do
IT'S A CAPPELLA ...!!
UGH, MY HEAD...


This feeling...
It's just like...
FOR REAL?
...HA HA.
Awe-some
ba-dump
do



I WANT TO GET THROUGH.

Because...


...our fingers
are slipping
apart.


...HOW HARD I WISH.
NO MATTER...
The time when you were here is becoming more distant, step by step.

Surely,

Feeling like
I could
never
go back,

I feared
the coming
of the
dawn.








Awesome.
When was it.
...since I had goosebumps like this?
How long has it been...


Even though I loved it that much.
When did I start tiring of music?
I definitely felt...
...the same thrill as I do now.
Even though, when I first heard Ugetsu perform,


I love
music.
Ah,


...
...AH!


When I watched their last performance,
I sensed that, if only there were some trigger, he would dramatically improve.
It seems like that premonition...
...is coming true here.


I see.
...AH.
...
...HA HA.
...







...are
slipping
apart.



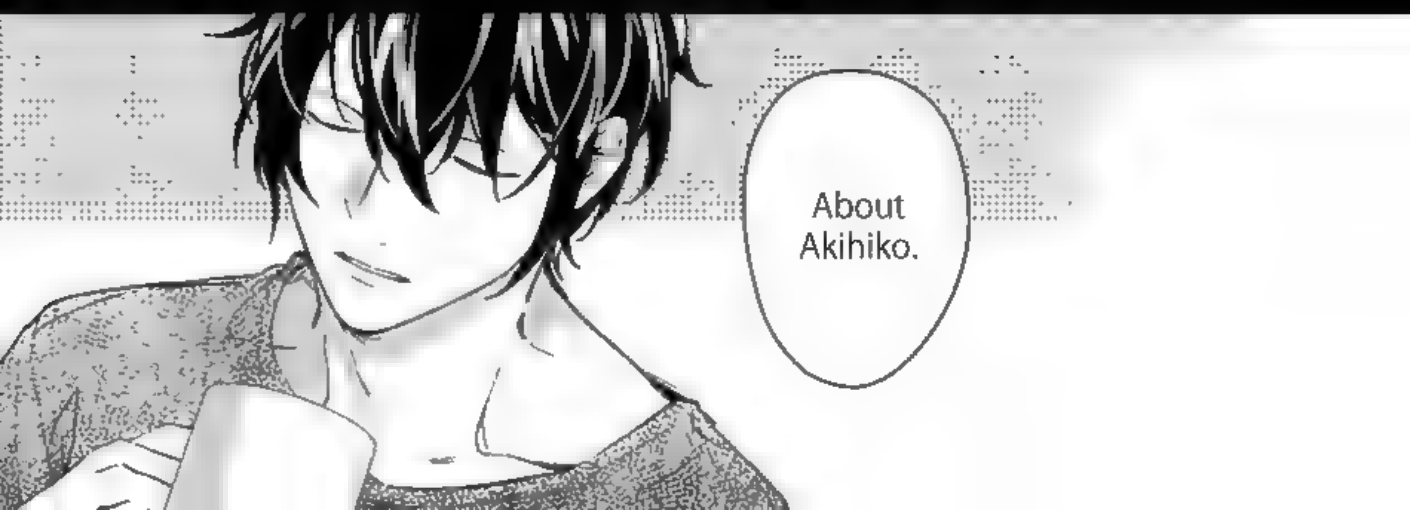


the day
inevitably
dawns.





Even
so...




He might suddenly come home tomorrow,
or so I hope.
But no matter how often I think that, I can't see it happening.
I've thought that so often
"The way things are, what if he never comes home again?"
At the same time,
I want this suffering to end.


cheer
.....but I don't really want that.
If all the stuff filling this room...
...were to vanish,
might **one thing**...
...be left behind?
Even if he never comes home,
even if he's far away,

I wish music alone could remain.




and I can surely go anywhere.
Because dawn will inevitably come,
It's okay.


GET
THROUGH!
do


dg
dg
!!!
batsunn


freeze...
nuff
.....,
.....!
.....!
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
clap
clap
cheer
whistle
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap


Slam
clap
clap
Next band, please get ready.
cheer
clap
clap
clap
clap
Thank you very much.
HARUKI!
I'M GONNA SEE SOMEONE TO THE STATION.
turn
clap
?
SURE, BUT...
...THE NEXT BAND'S STARTING.
I'LL...
...BE RIGHT BACK.
cheer
clap
clap
.....
.....
COME BACK SOON.
Club


huff
dash
huff
huff
dash
huff
huff
UGETSU!


huff
huff
huff
...HEY.
UGETSU,
step
HEY, STOP!
step
step
DON'T WANNA.
HUH!?
WHA—
'CAUSE...
...IF I STOP, AREN'T YOU GONNA BREAK UP WITH ME?


.....!!
YOUR DRUMMING WAS GOOD.
FRAGILE AS EVER, THOUGH.
step
.....
HEY.
step
HEY.
grab
LISTEN!


I...
...LOVE THE VIOLIN.
nutt
!
grip
BUT THE DRUMS ARE FUN TOO.
ALL THE EFFORT I'VE POURED INTO THE VIOLIN...
...WASN'T A LIE.
.....
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING. WEREN'T YOU GONNA BREAK UP WITH ME?



I'M SORRY...

...FOR ALL...

...THE PAIN I'VE BEEN CAUSING YOU.


THANK YOU.
.....
...I'M CHEERING FOR YOU.
IF YOU UNDER-STAND,
YOU CAN LET GO NOW.
.....
exhale
squeeze


……
……

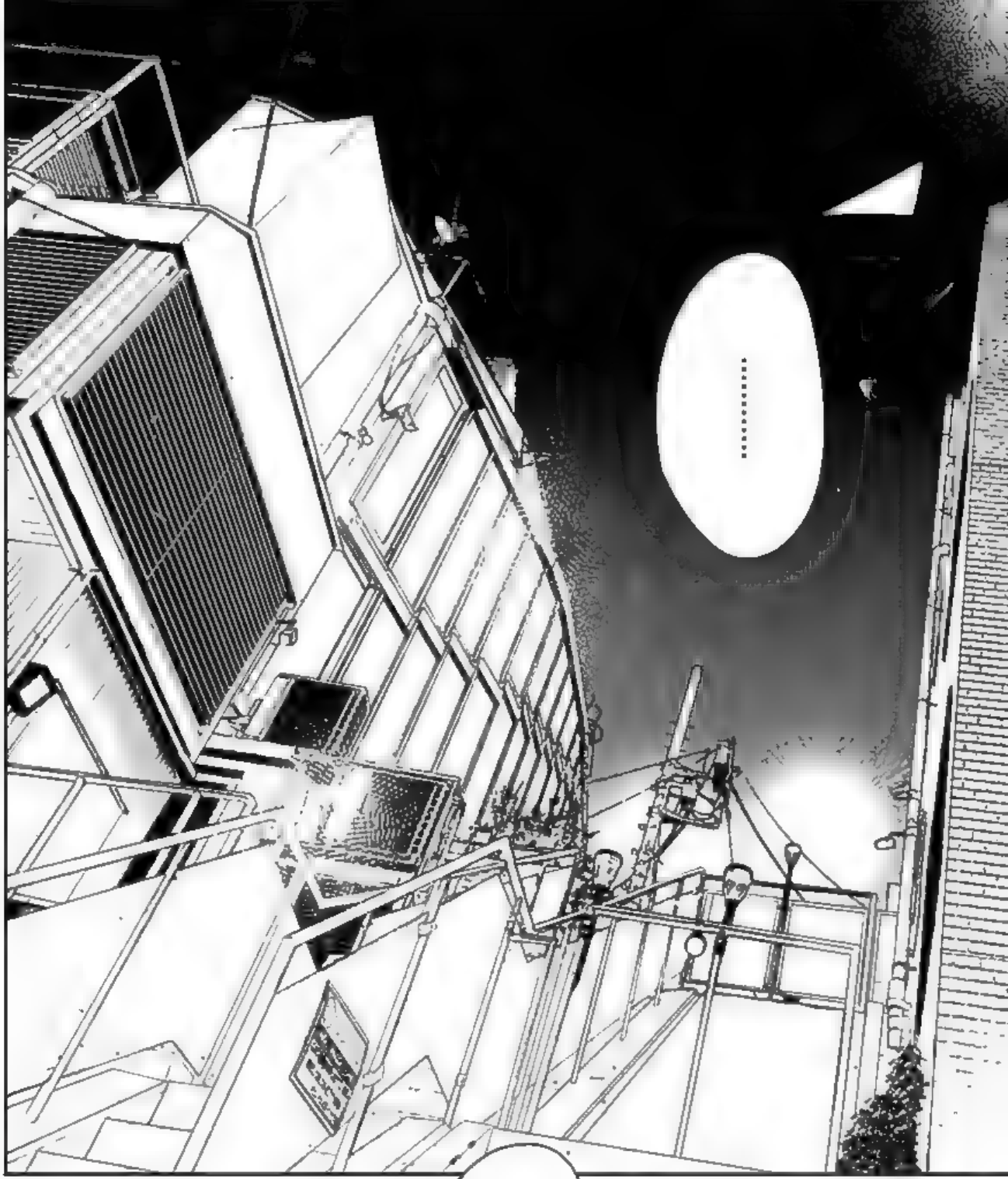





"It's okay."
...
...


It's
okay.


.....


.....
BAI-BAI,
AKIHIKO.

given

Natsuki Kizu
presents

Nothing...
But the two of us.
For each other.

It was
sun-deprived,
and completely
sound proofed.
There wasn't
even a television
in there.

I loved that
room like an
enclosed
cocoon.

And there
was music.

But in spite of all that, there was unbearable pain.



I WONDER IF WE'LL STILL BE CONNECTED SOMEHOW.

CONTINUE WITH MUSIC,

.....AS LONG AS I

I *hated* music.

I felt pathetic.

I was miserable.

I began enjoying it.

unknow-ingly

Yet,


Truth is,

The truth is... at that moment, I wanted to beg him to save me.

I gotta apologize,

I gotta tell him I love him.

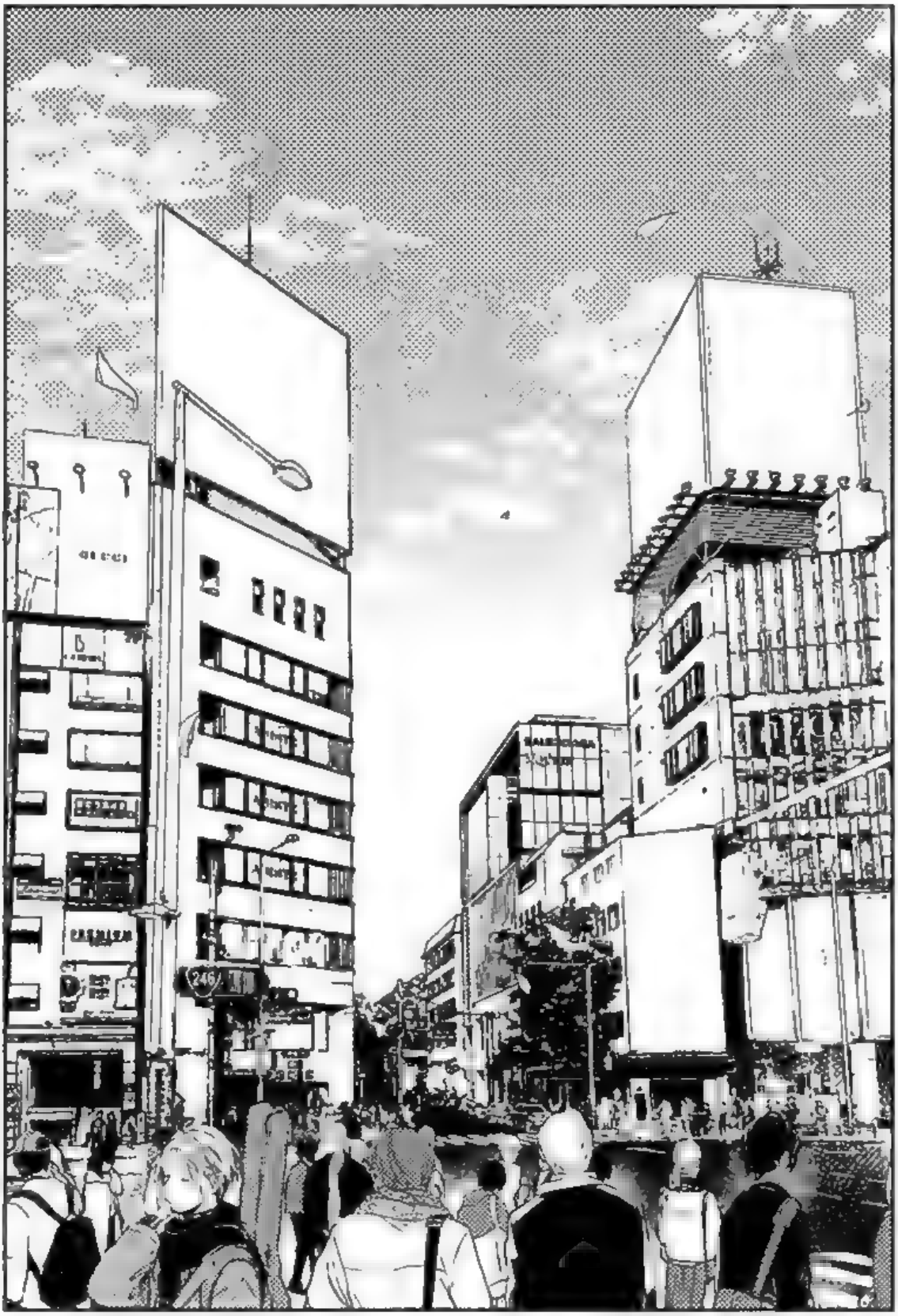




Eve Of Emergence

End

given | code.28



In the end,


we just missed being chosen.
We weren't expecting to be chosen,
but neither were we expecting to fail.


A few days later, Akihiko moved out of my place.
It was really frustrating, but. .
...many people came up to us with words of support.



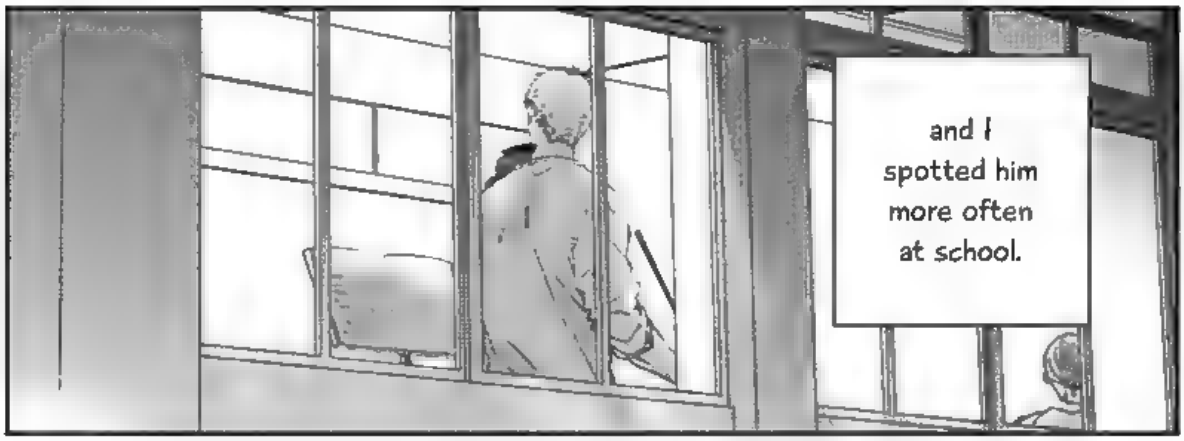
...something had changed inside Akihiko.

That answer made me realize...








and I spotted him more often at school.


After that, the new year began.


We gave a few performances.
I played bass for Given and also helped out other bands.



Then spring came,

Scan ator note: an image of Sagetsu Akihiko's ex- hangs over them


...entered a violin competition.
Until Mafuyu dragged me there,
I had no idea it was taking place.
and Akihiko...
Somewhere in my heart...


...I'd thought Akihiko was incapable of such rough passion.
...HUH.
SO THIS IS KAJI AKIHIKO...
I suddenly became afraid.


I told Mafuyu
I wasn't feeling well,
and without showing
my face to Akihiko,
I jumped on a train.
I knew that
Murata Ugetsu
was present at
Given's contest
performance.
Actually,
gatan
gata
(train no ses)


But,
I didn't know what happened after he left.
When Akihiko said, "I'll be right back,"
I knew he was chasing someone.
I also knew whom he meant...
...by "the person I love".
My love for Akihiko was smoldering.
Just now, I got to see "whom" he changed into.
That was when he began to change.


I became afraid of feeling even more helpless.
AH!
WELL, I'LL APOLOGIZE TO MAFUYU TOMORROW...
AH.


doom
IF YOU'RE GONNA COME THEN SAY YOU'RE GONNA COME!!
WHEN I NOTICED YOU I ALMOST YELLED!!
AKI—
YOU-
U-
U!
...
nuff
nuff
nuff
WELL THAAAANK YOU! AND ARE YOU FEELING BETTER!?
I WAS SO EMBARRASSED! I WAS SO EMBARRASSED!!
HUH...
BUT YOU WERE COOL...
MAFUYU JUST INVITED ME THIS MORNING...
REALLY, WHY DID YOU COME!?
gape
UH, YEAH.
SO HOW'D YOU DO?


Slump
Sigh...
.....
Grip
FOURTH.
HUH?
CONGRATS?
IT'S NOT THAT GREAT,
BUT...


...THANKS.
I BROKE UP...
...WITH UGETSU, THE GUY I WAS IN LOVE WITH.
Huh?
WHAT? WHEN YOU SUDDENLY MOVED OUT OF MY PLACE, I THOUGHT FOR SURE.....
THAT WAS BECAUSE I GOT IN TOUCH WITH MY PARENTS AND BEGGED THEM FOR MONEY.


I WANT TO SEE...
...HOW GOOD I CAN BECOME.
Then why?
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY.....
THAT WAS.....
AND SUDDENLY THROWING YOURSELF INTO VIOLIN—


Stand
OH, ENOUGH!
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, YOU WERE CHANGING SO MUCH—
THAT WAS—
AND SUDDENLY BECOMING DISTANT FROM ME—


I!
CHANGED MY WAY OF LIVING!!
'CAUSE I WANTED TO BECOME A GOOD ENOUGH MAN FOR YOU!




OOH...
.....
.....
.....
what does he mean, "Ooh"...
Now I've done it...
Ooooh...
...HARUKI.
...



Why?

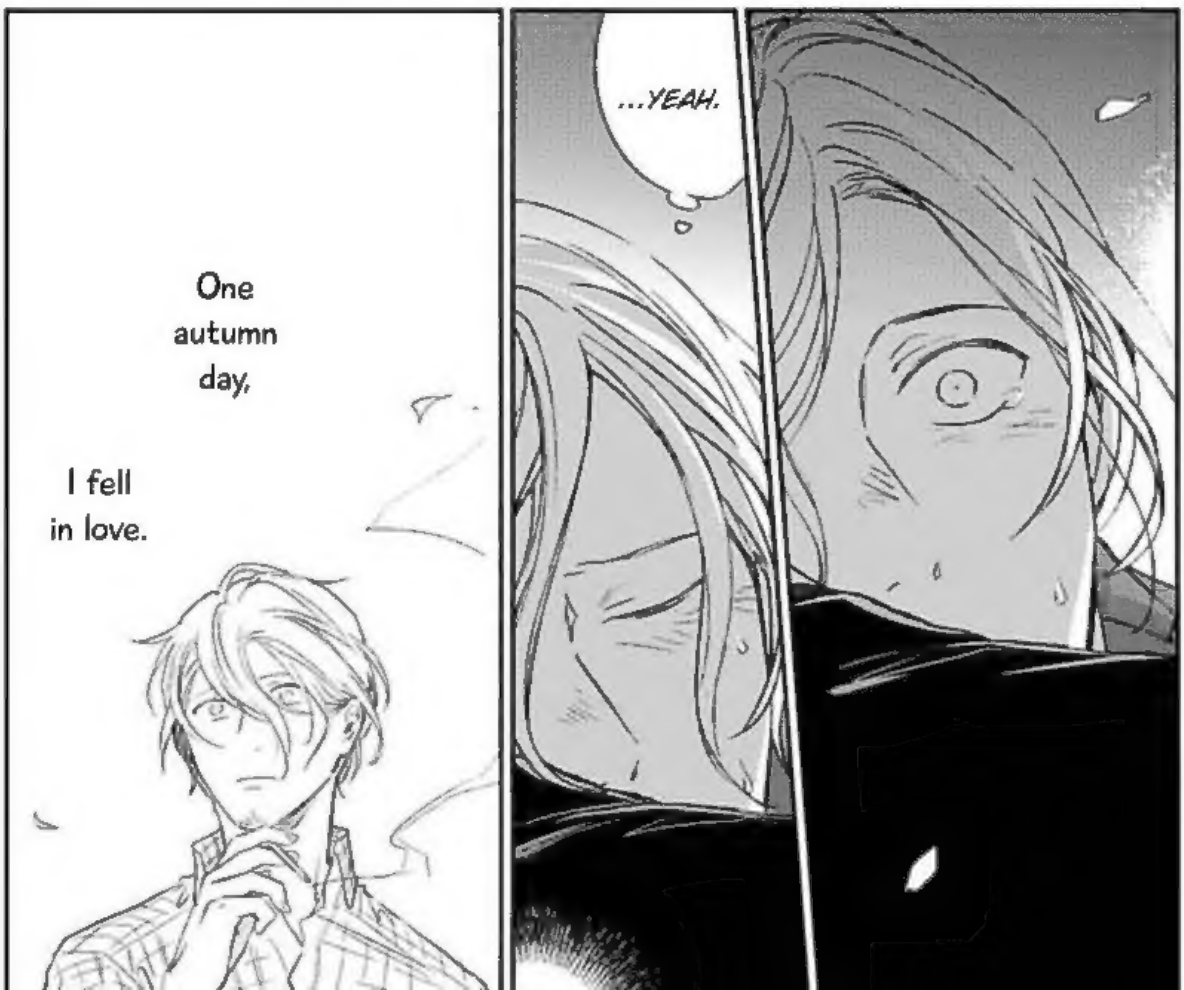



Why must your fingers tremble so?
Why?
.....OKAY.


I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
Even though I don't want to get hurt again.


DAMMIT. IT'S TOO SOON.....
I'M LAME, SNEAKY, AND A KID...
I MIGHT HURT YOU AGAIN, AND UENOYAMA MIGHT YELL AT US, BUT...


...EVER SINCE I HEARD MAFUYU'S SONG,
I'VE WANTED TO CHANGE.


One autumn day,
I fell in love.
...YEAH.



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Mafuyu's song is like magic,
...FOR REAL?
YES, FOR REAL.
making me believe...
...in trying to love once more.
AH.....
This is one ordinary spring's...
AKIHIKO,



...ordinary
love story.

To be continued...

Scanlator note: As of Reiwa 1 July 30, the author has not yet published chapter 29.
Next possible Japanese chapter publication date: Reiwa 1 September 30